THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme for setting up of Handlooms Development Centre (HDC) and Quality Dyeing Unit (QDU), the Government provides central assistance of Rs. 10.00 lakhs and Rs. 4.265 lakhs for each HDC and QDU respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) On the basis of proposals received from the State Government of Gujarat, 6 HDCs have been sanctioned for assistance since 1994-95. District-wise details of number of HDCs and QDUs set up during the last 3 years are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	District	Number HDC Sanctioned	Number QDU Sanctioned	Amount Released	Remarks
1994-95	Amreli	1	—	4.21	
	Dang	1	—	1.60	
	Badoli	1	—	2.88	
	Bhasaria	1	—	4.15	
	Kutch	1	—	3.52	
	Basaskantha	1	—	4.06	
1995-96	—	—	—	8.25	Towards setting up of Sales Centre and Procurement of Yarn Dyes and chemicals for the 6 HDCs sanctioned during the previous years.
	Total	6	—	28.67	

Non Issuance of Telephone Connections to Applicants at Fatehpur, Dumka Subb-Division in Bihar

3152. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some people had deposited Rs. 2000/- each in April 1994 for new telephone connections at the proposed New Telephone Exchange at Fatehpur under Dumka Sub-Division in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the New Telephone Exchange has since been set up;

(c) whether Government are aware that telephone connections have not been given to these people; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) New Telephone Exchange could not be opened so far at Fatehpur under Dumka Subdivision in Bihar for want of reliable transmission media/connectivity. However, it is planned to instal a new electronic telephone exchange at Fatehpur during 1996-97 and the wait-listed applicants will be provided telephone connections gradually.

Navigation in Coovum river

3153. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the demand of the people of South to make the Coovum river nagigable; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to draw up a plan for making it nagivable?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRIT. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) The river Coovum serves as a connecting link between the North Buckinggham canal and south Buckingham canal. A techno-economic feasibility study covering the integrated canal system comprising Buckingham Canal, Commemur Canal, Eluru Canal, Kakinada Canal alongwith river Godavari and Krishna river system linking Madras and Kakinada was carried out by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) during 1994-95. Copies of the study report have been sent to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for their comments on physical characterstics, availability of water discharge, port hinter land, cargo movement and on the financial and economic viability of the scheme.

Suicide by Women

3154. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of suicide by women recorded in the years 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the main reasons therefor;

(c) the number of the cases filed by the relatives and in how may of the cases charge-sheets have been filed and how many have been convicted; how many have been acquitted; and

(d) whether Government intend to amend the existing Anti-dowry Act, if so, when and how?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) TO (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

विद्युत करघों की स्थापना

3155. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किरू

(क) विद्युत करघों की स्थापना के विषय में सूचना ज्ञापन भेजने हेतु कितना शुल्क लिया जा रहा है;

(ख) क्या इस संबंध में वित्त मंत्रालय को कोई अभ्यावेदन भेजा गया है कि शुल्क की वसूली प्रति इकाई करने के बजाय प्रति करघा की जाए चाहे एक इकाई में कितने भी करघे स्थापित किए जाने हों; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस पर क्या कार्रवाई की जा रही है?

वस्त्र मंत्री (श्री आर॰ एल॰ जालप्पा): (क) विद्युतकरघों को स्थापित करने पर प्रति व्यक्ति 1000 रु॰ जमा किया जाना है।

(ख) जी, नहीं।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Failure of Telephone System in Gujarat

3156. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone system in Ahmedabad in particular and Gujarat in General, went hay-wire during the very first rains this year;

(b) if so, the number of lines affected and the telephone which have been dead for over 10 days during June, July and August this year in Ahmedabad, Surat, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Vadodara, Jamnagar and Bharuch;

(c) in how many cases has refund of rent been made on account of continued inoperation of the lines for periods longer than ten days; and

(d) the loss incurred by the Telecommunications Department on this account?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERVA): (a) During the month of June 96, Gujarat as a whole ad Ahmedabad in particular experienced cyclonic condition and continuous heavy rains resulting in break-down of large number of under-ground cables and overhead alignments. This caused disruption in telephone services in some cities of Gujarat.

(b) The information is given in the enclosed statement (*See* below).

(c) The number of cases in which rebate has been approved (telephone remaining out of order for more than 7 days) is given below:

(i)	Ahmedabad	—	14809 cases
(ii)	Surat	—	3212 cases
(iii)	Bhavnagar	—	969 cases
(iv)	Rajkot	—	3531 cases
(v)	Vadodra	—	683 cases
(vi)	Jamnagar	—	14 cases
(vii)	Bharuch	—	790 cases